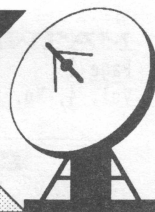


MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

Hotline - 901-664-9246



VOL. 4, NO. 5

FEBRUARY 4-10

Less Than Happy News

WM7 APPARENTLY OUT OF COLISEUM;

CLASH XIV: RATINGS FIZZLE

L.A. Sports Arena Hosts March 'Mania

LOS ANGELES----Only seven weeks before a controversial Sgt. Slaughter-Hulk Hogan clash, unless developments change this week, **WRESTLEMANIA VII** will apparently move to the 16,500-seat Los Angeles Sports Arena March 24.

At deadline Sunday, specifics of the move were unavailable. But inside sources close to Titan Sports indicate L.A. law enforcement officials are concerned with potential security problems over the heated Slaughter-as-Iraqi sympathizer storyline in the 93,000-seat L.A. Coliseum, which has been booked for WM7 for more than a year.

An announcement is expected this week. During the weekend's WWF syndicated TV shows, no direct reference was made to the Coliseum (other than a computer graphic of the stadium). WM7 was referred to as "coming to Los Angeles."

If forced to move, Titan Sports is expected to lose a minimum of \$2 million in gate receipts. One published report in the last week had 60,000 tickets sold for the Coliseum, a figure doubted by other MATWATCH sources.

One West Coast source told MATWATCH Titan is hopeful of a late compromise to allow WM7 to go on in the Coliseum but unless the Persian Gulf crisis dramatically subsides, the decision is final.

The controversy over the Slaughter-Hogan matchup has been amplified in the past three weeks with columns and stories in **THE NATIONAL** sports daily newspaper by **WRESTLING OBSERVER** editor Dave Meltzer. The pieces have challenged the wisdom and taste of the war-in-progress exploitation by the WWF.

CLASH RATINGS

8:05	3.1/4.7	9:15	3.4/5.0
8:15	3.2/4.8	9:30	3.9/5.7
8:30	3.6/5.4	9:45	4.0/5.8
8:45	4.1/6.0	10:00	4.8/7.3
9:00	3.9/5.7	10:15	4.8/7.5

Titan came under harsh criticism as well from newspapers in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and in Florida on the exploitation angle and MATWATCH publisher Steve Beverly editorialized against the scenario on his WBBJ-TV newscast in Jackson TN Monday night.

Former WWF wrestler and current USWA world champion Terry Funk spoke out against the angle in **THE NATIONAL**, as did Jim Cornette.

Titan's response came in a statement: "We are very pleased with Hulk Hogan's work with the USO," a reference to Hogan's carefully-packaged tour of military bases to build the **WRESTLEMANIA** pay-per-view buy-ins.

MATWATCH Editorial

NOTE TO TBS: CUT THE ADS

While World Championship Wrestling, Inc., has not entered into a tasteless angle involving Iraqi sympathy, a la Titan Sports, its recent step-up of its **WRESTLE WAR '91** promotional and contest ads should be closely scrutinized.

During the TBS and syndicated WCW shows of the past weekend, the spots repeatedly emphasized
(Continued on Page 2)

CLASH Draws Second Lowest Ever Ratings

ATLANTA----CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XIV: DIXIE DYNAMITE failed to draw explosive ratings during its TBS broadcast last Wednesday.

CLASH scored a 3.9 rating, second-lowest in the history of the 14 TBS specials. Only a 3.8 for the June 1989 **GUTS & GLORY** attracted a smaller number. However, the 5.8 per cent share of audience was the worst in the history of the CLASHES, which began in March 1988.

DIXIE DYNAMITE was seen in 2.16 million homes but the audience dipped sharply during the 9:00-9:45 p.m. period (see CLASH RATINGS box in column 2) after rising to a 4.1 at 8:45.

The Ric Flair-Scott Steiner main event for the WCW title drew a 4.8/7.4 average for the final half-hour of the show, lowest ever for a CLASH topline, sharply down from the record numbers for the Sting-Black Scorpion and Flair-Lex Luger headliners in September. The match was seen in 2.69 million homes.

Compared to last February's **TEXAS SHOOTOUT**, which featured the turn of the Horsemen against Sting, DIXIE DYNAMITE posted a 15% ratings decline.

DYNAMITE, which featured the return of Dusty Rhodes to WCW in a color commentary role, was the first of the CLASH specials to be replayed in its entirety immediately following the first-run airing.

The 10:35 p.m.-1:05 a.m. repeat scored a 1.7 rating and 3.7% share, dropping sharply after the 2.6/4.1 average in the first half-hour.

The 5.6 two-show rating was the worst combined showing in the history of the CLASH series.

LONG NIGHT IN GAINESVILLE

**THIS WEEK'S
HEADLINES**

**SAVAGE TO WRESTLE
LAST WWF MATCH???**

LOS ANGELES---Conflicting reports continue but sources have told MATWATCH the now-promoted "end-of-career" match for Randy Savage against the Ultimate Warrior at WRESTLEMANIA VII will be Savage's last in the WWF.

Insiders say Savage has told Titan Sports officials he is tired of the constant travel during his six-year WWF career and wants to spend more time at home in Florida.

However, one other reliable source says the match, in fact, may be part of an angle which will have Savage taking a brief time off and returning to Titan.

**TOKYO DOME CARD
TO REPEAT IN MAY**

ATLANTA---Many elements of next month's WCW/New Japan Tokyo Dome show will likely be rematched for World Championship Wrestling's May 19 pay-per-view event.

WCW executive vice president Jim Herd told MATWATCH last week the card would likely be held at The Omni in Atlanta and the untitled show would supplant last year's CAPITOL COMBAT pay-cable special.

The Tokyo Dome card includes Ric Flair defending the WCW world belt against Tatsumi Fujinami; Lex Luger vs. Riki Choshu; DOOM vs. Big Van Vader/Bam Bam Bigelow; Barry Windham/Arn Anderson vs. Masa Saito/Masa Chono; El Gigante vs. Curtis Hughes; Steiners vs. Hiroshi Hase/Kensuke Sasaki; Tom Zenk/Brian Pillman/Tim Horner vs. Shiro Koshinaka/Takayuki Iizuka/Matsuta.

**ST. JOHN HOSTS
ESPN/USWA SERIES**

DALLAS---Michael St. John will host ESPN's new USWA WRESTLING first-run series until syndication announcer Craig Johnson is free from Home Team Sports and George Washington University basketball commitments.

The USWA show premiered Monday (4-5 p.m., EST) and supplants a series of AWA reruns. The USWA LEGENDS series continues Tuesdays through Thursdays.

The series will be taped in Dallas and consist of matches not previously shown in syndication.

About eight months ago, I was accused of making too quick a snap judgment on Ole Anderson's booking regime for World Championship Wrestling. While most of our observations panned out, I vow not to follow the same path for Virgil Runnels. However, one issue will not win my patience nor silence.



Mr. Runnels may or may not be able to revive his NWA magic of the mid-1980s as a booker. But one talent he does not now possess, nor will anything short of a miracle anoint him with the ability to be a top-flight color commentator on a TV wrestling program. At least as long as he insists on being Dusty Rhodes.

No doubt, you've seen the disappointing ratings for CLASH XIV on page 1.

While a valid view can be offered that

at least four matches were little different from the variety seen on TBS weekend shows, one fact is undisputed, backed more than 170 calls to our hotline. Dusty's homecoming has had a stunningly short honeymoon.

The man is no announcer, if Wednesday night was the example. Repeatedly, he dominated the show with Rhodesesque babbling, pulling out every Dusty cliché developed over the past fifteen years, capped by the incessant "in pullic, if you weee-yull." Dusty offered almost nothing in the way of significant analysis and if you count the 23 times during the 2 1/2 hours his name was referred to, including seven references to the fact that he is now retired, one was left with no question who the intended star is.

Instead of the smooth chemistry which has been honed between Jim Ross and Paul E. Dangerously, Rhodes and Ross never struck a rhythm and Ross' usual impeccable timing was repeatedly thrown off by Dusty dominating the mike. It was enough to elevate Superstar Billy Graham's infamous performance at the first SUMMER SLAM to a John Madden level. Only instead of "bruh-thuh," the constant catchword was "bay-beh." Interestingly, near the end of the CLASH when Dusty briefly slipped out of the Rhodes brogue and articulated as Virgil Runnels, he was at least tolerable. Otherwise, it was---in a word---awful.

This is an earnest plea to Jim Herd: I assume we're going to have to go through this again on the 24th. Jim, you're the boss. Please get Dusty a coach. Hire Ed Capral. Hire Billy Packer. Hire anyone with broadcasting experience and at least make this man listen to constructive advice. If not, please don't make us go through this after WRESTLE WAR, or the WE WANT PAUL E. CLUB will organize en masse. As Ron Lemieux says, "I can't wait for Dusty to come out of retirement, so we won't have to listen to him again."

(Continued on Page 6)

MATWATCH EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 1)

the phrase "this is WAR." WCW cannot be faulted for the name WRESTLE WAR, ironically born when TBS considered a head-on pay show view against Vince McMahon's WRESTLEMANIA V in 1989. Neither should it be blamed for the desert locale of the Feb. 24 pay-cable show in Phoenix, a site chosen in October. Its WAR GAMES feature is a title which has existed since Virgil Runnels created it in 1987. To its credit, Turner Home Entertainment has dropped the subtitle BATTLE IN THE DESERT from the WRESTLE WAR ads.

However, the developments in the Gulf place WCW in the unfortunate role of capitalizing on the war situation in commercial efforts to sell buys for WW. Considering the current involvement, the heavy repetition of the ads have eroded them, in our view, into a level of bad taste. TBS has spent three weeks purging its lineup of potentially offensive war-related programming.

Accordingly, MATWATCH calls on WCW and THE to pull the current WRESTLE WAR ads and refocus their commercial efforts on less hard-sell of the war angle. What is good for one is good for everyone.

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TV
TEMPO

Jan. 28-Feb. 3

(WCW/CLASH XIV) - [WCW WORLD TAG TITLE] Sting/Lex Luger d. DOOM by DQ (12:40) when Butch Reed flips Sting over top. Danny Spivey attacks Luger outside during match; [WCW TV TITLE] Tom Zenk d. Bobby Eaton (7:10) to retain belt; Freebirds d. Tommy Rich/Allen Iron Eagle (5:48); Sid Vicious d. Joey Maggs (1:11); Terry Taylor d. Ricky Morton (11:30); [SEGMENT] Bill Apter presents Sting PWI WRESTLER OF THE YEAR/MOST INSPIRATIONAL awards; Ranger Ross d. El Cubano (3:05); Arn Anderson/Barry Windham d. Renegade Warriors (7:28); Brian Pillman d. Sgt. Buddy Lee Parker (2:50); [VIDEO] Japanese women; [NEW JAPAN CLIP] Stan Hansen vs. Big Van Vader; [ARM-WRESTLING] Missy Hyatt d. Paul E. Dangerously; [WCW WORLD TITLE] Ric Flair draw vs. Scott Steiner (24:48). SHOW RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WWF/NBC) - [THE MAIN EVENT]: Hulk Hogan/Tugboat d. Dino Bravo/Earthquake; [WWF WORLD TITLE] Jim Duggan d. Sgt. Slaughter (who retains belt) by DQ when Sarge hits Hacksaw w. chair. Hulk Hogan is chaired when he tries to save; Legion of Doom d. Orient Express; (SEGMENTS) 1) Jack Tunney announces Hogan-Slaughter WWF title match for WRESTLEMANIA VII, 2) Hogan leads Macon GA crowd in Pledge of Allegiance. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(ALL-JAPAN) - [1/6]: {90-MINUTE SPECIAL} Jumbo Tsuruta vs. five top rivals. POWERSLAM-PLUS.
[1/13]: Mitsuhashi Misawa/Toshiaki Kawada d. Mighty Inoue/Tsuyoshi Kikuchi; Abdullah the Butcher d. Kenta Kobashi; Danny Spivey/Stam Hansen d. Akira Taue/Jumbo Tsuruta. DRAW.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Vicky Carranza/La Sirenita d. La Diabolica/Martha Villalobos 2-3 falls; (VIDEO) El Vulcano at his auto paint shop; Mogar/Kato Kung Lee I/Javier Cruz d. Tony Arce/El Vulcano/Gargola El Sultan 2-3 w. 3rd fall countout; Jerry Estrada/Jaque Mata/Emilio Charles Jr. d. Huracan Sevilla/Angel Azteca/El Misterioso 2-3; (VIDEO) Pierroth Jr. workout tape; Mascara Sagrada/Atlantis/Octagon d. Pierroth Jr./Fuerza Guerrera/Kung Fu 2-3. DRAW-PLUS.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: (From ROYAL RUMBLE/WWF TITLE) Slaughter d. Ultimate Warrior when Randy Savage bashes Ult w. Macho King sceptre; The Mountie d. Reno Riggins; Big Bossman d. Jeff Sword; Hart Foundation d. Dale Wolfe/Doug Vines; Rick Martel d. Allan Reynolds; (From RUMBLE) Hogan post-match celebration; Barbarian d. Saba Simba; (BRO. LOU) Terry Garvin brings out man for Bruce to "heal" of blindness and paralysis; Jake Roberts d. Izzy Slapowitz; Demolition d. Pez Whatley/Mike Wallace; Other winners: Curt Hennig, Davey Boy Smith; (STORYLINE) Gorilla Monsoon tells Bobby Heenan PTW will have new set, format with live audience. RESTHOLD.
[ALL-AMERICAN]: (From NBC) Slaughter-Duggan, Tunney announcement, Hogan pledge; Tugboat d. Bravo; L.O.D. d. Doug Vines/Cleo Reed; Nasty Boys d. Jesse Knight/Brian Johnson; Other winner: Jake Roberts. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/SYN) - [SUPERSTARS]: Bossman d. Sword; (From NBC) Tunney announcement, Hogan pledge, Slaughter-Duggan; Demolition d. Whatley/Wallace; Undertaker d. William Ford; (ROYAL RUMBLE) Virgil-DiBiase; Shane Douglas d. Dale Wolfe; (I-C TITLE) Kerry Von Erich d. Hennig by DQ when Curt counted out. Bossman arrives to handcuff Heenan but Curt dropkicks Bubba into steps. POWERSLAM.

[CHALLENGE]: Smith d. Nelson; Mountie d. King; Harts d. O Ex; (NBC) Slaughter-Duggan; Tugboat d. Turner; (ROYAL RUMBLE) Virgil-DiBiase; Nasty Boys d. Knight/Johnson. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: John Tatum d. Chris Germany; Big Bully Busich d. Jimmy James; Sweet Georgia Brown d. Dazzling Denise; (6-MAN) Matt Borne/Jeff Jarrett/Billy Travis d. Steve Austin/Dog of War/California Stud; (USWA TITLE) Jerry Lawler d. Terry Funk by DQ when Funk clotheslines ref & stomps him; (ANGLE) Funk attacks Craig Johnson at end. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: [VIDEO] Fabulous Ones/Lawler; Fabs d. Jerry Lynn/Cody Michaels; Pit Bulldogs d. T.D. Steel/Danny Davis; Robert Fuller/Curtis Thompson d. Freezer Thompson/Jeff Gaylord & Jeff decks Freezer after; Matt Borne d. Sgt. O'Reilly; Awesome Kong/Terrence Garvin d. New Kids. BOMB-PLUS.

(WCW/SYN) - [WORLD WIDE]: Freebirds d. Brad Armstrong/Pillman; Vicious d. Dave Johnson; (From MEADOWLANDS/WCW WORLD TITLE) Flair d. Sting to regain belt; DOOM d. Scott Allen/Carl Robertson; (WCW TV TITLE) Arn d. Zenk w. feet on top rope to regain belt; Steiners d. Master Blasters but 'Birds run in, double DDT Steiners after; Rich d. John Peterson. POWERSLAM.
[WCW PRO]: Michael Wallstreet d. Tim Parker; (MEADOWLANDS) Flair d. Sting to win belt; Luger d. Peterson; (REMATCH) Rich/Morton d. Arn/Windham by countout when Ron Simmons decks Arn outside & Barry is counted out during save. DRAW.

(LPWA) - Nasty Girls d. Mighty Mites; Reggie Bennett d. Rusty Thomas; The Beast d. Hosaka & Beast turns on Ashley Kennedy after Ashley stomps on Hosaka. Beast tells Boni Blackstone she's only been paid \$50 for each win; Black Venus d. Terri Power when spectator (Bugaloo Brown) hits Terri w. cane; Susan Sexton d. Lady X; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette w. Queen & His Court; Glamour Girls d. Misty Blue Simmes/Heidi Lee Morgan when Chris Love throws powder at Misty. DRAW.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - C. Thompson/Chris Walker d. Marvin Gaye/Samoan; (From LPWA) Bambi d. Magnificent Mimi by DQ; (From 1954) Argentina Rocca d. Terry Gardini; Festus d. The Shadow; (From P.R.) Stam Hansen d. Carlos Colon; Steve Lawler d. Kyle O'Neal; Randy Rose d. Steve Studwell. RESTHOLD.

(IWCCW) - Miami Kid d. Hawaiian Hurricane; Miami Kid d. Amadeus; Frankie Angel d. Psycho; Towers of Power d. Mad Russians; Towers d. Hurricane/Cactus Jack; Sonny Austin d. Curly Moe; Tasmaniac d. Chris Michaels. BOMB-PLUS.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - Nick Bockwinkel d. Martel; Hogan/Greg Gagne/Jim Brunzell d. Jesse Ventura/Heenan/Ken Patera. DRAW.

(USWA/WMC) - New Kids d. Fabs by DQ when Steve Keirn pile-drives Tony, decks ref before Lawler saves; (From MID-SOUTH/USWA TAG TITLE) Fabs d. Lawler/Jarrett by DQ when Jamie Dundee tells downed ref Lawler piledrove Fabs but Frank Morrell holds up belts; (SEGMENT) Lawler reveals Jackie Fargo as ref for Fabs-Lawler/Jarrett rematch; (PROFILE) Michael St. John on Fargo; (ANGLE) Fabs/Corny get into heated dispute. Keirn orders Corny to lay off Fargo when Jim says Fabs will destroy Fargo for \$100,000; U.S. Males (C. Thompson/Walker) d. O'Reilly/John Rush; (6-MAN) Doug Gilbert/Tony Anthony/Brian Lee d. Freezer/Steel/Night Train Jackson; Eliminators d. Chris Frazier/Keith Eric; Davis/Lynn d. Garvin/Tom Prichard by DQ when Uptown Bruno chloroforms faces. Garvin tries to cut Danny's hair but Males/Jerry & Brian Lawler save; (ANGLE) Fabs refuse again to hurt Fargo. DRAW-PLUS.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Horner d. Samples; JYD/Mor-

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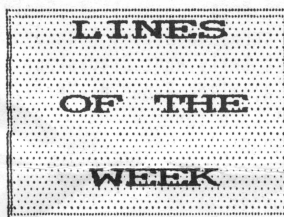
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ton d. Mark Kyle/Joe Cezana; (WNN) Gordon Solie w. WAR GAMES preview; Pillman d. Peterson; Vicious d. Johnson; Luger d. Magnum Force I; Arn Anderson d. Bobby Eaton by holding ropes. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: (6-MAN) JYD/Rich/Morton d. Rip Rogers/Jeff Hendrick/Steve Stax; (From CLASH) Luger-Spivey scuffle; Luger d. Lou Fabiano; Taylor d. Dave Diamond; Steiners d. Paul Lee/Ray Hammer; [WRAPUP] [From NEW JAPAN] Hansen vs. Vader; Anderson/Windham double DQ vs. Armstrong/Horner when DOOM runs in; [DANGER ZONE] Vicious d. Philip Parrish; Freebirds d. Rick Hardrock/Riggins; Eaton d. Parker; (ANGLE) El Gigante tells Flair, "I...want...your...belt." As Pillman readies to face Cruel Connection, El goes to ring & taunts Flair. The Horsemen all jump El but he breaks free & Steiners, Pillman join brawl. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: (From WWW/TV TITLE) Arn d. Zenk to regain belt; 'Birds d. Parker/Scott Sandlin; Luger d. Pat Rose; [DANGER ZONE] Paul E. w. Diamond Dallas Page who gets Teddy Long to agree to a WCW world tag title match for DOOM against DDP's mystery team; Wallstreet d. Rick Cannon; Zenk draw vs. Taylor; Other winner: El Gigante. RESTHOLD-PLUS.



1. Jim Cornette, WMC: "Dave Brown, you've got all your teeth. I counted all of them. They were sitting in a sack back in the bathroom." 2. Cornette, WMC, on Lawler: "He's like a poker player talking tough when he's already stacked the deck." 3. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "Pat Patterson's real busy in Connecticut. He works the last toll booth there."

4. Joe Pedicino, USWA, on Big Bully Busich: "He reminds me of one of those dogs in the commercial, you know... KIBBLES 'N' BITS, KIBBLES 'N' BITS!" 5. Cornette/Dave Brown, WMC: (JC) "I can't stand dishonest people." (DB) "I'm not too thrilled with that idea, either. Keep in mind, this is Jim Cornette sitting next to me." 6. Brown, WMC: "It only took Curtis Thompson one ride between Memphis and Nashville to realize he didn't want to be hooked up with Robert Fuller." 7. Crowd, USWA, on Busich: "Mario...Mario... Mario!" 8. Pedicino, USWA, on Funk-Lawler: "You've heard of everything but the kitchen sink. We've seen the kitchen sink." 9. Hawk, NBC, on O Ex: "They've got 'Oh, what a feeling!' We've got ohhh...what a rush!" 10. Pedicino, USWA: "Craig, you've got to be careful with Terry Funk. Just being an announcer doesn't protect you from his wrath."

11. Jim Ross, CLASH XIV, on El Gigante: "Get a pair of Tony Lamas on that man, he'll become a whole herd." 12. Terrence Garvin, WMC, on Danny Davis: "Some people get it from their mother's side. Some from their father's side. You get it from peroxide." 13. Heenan, PTW: "Bushwackers are always good to have at a party---they keep flies off the food." 14. Cornette, WMC: "They say often imitated, never duplicated. After Monday night, you're gonna be mutilated." 15. Jimmy Garvin/Michael Hayes, WCW PRO: (JG) "Michael, I'm gonna have to get me one of them computers. (MH) "Nah, one of them secretaries." 16. Dusty Rhodes, CLASH XIV: "Maybe I shouldn't spout out some of those nasty words, but that's Dusty Rhodes, the American Dream." 17. Kevin Sullivan, WWW, on Zenk going to mat against Arn: "That's like trying to use a pass defense against Joe Montana." 18. Cornette/Pedicino,

LPWA, on disguised Bugaloo Brown: (JC) "That's SAMMY DAVIS JR!" (JP) "Jim, he's dead." (JC) "Then it's Eubie Blake!" 19. Cornette, LPWA: "If my makeup had exploded like Misty Blue's on national television, I'd have been embarrassed, too." 20. Paul E. Dangerously, WCW: "Because of where Phoenix is, it's gonna be Illegal Alien Night on Feb. 24."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Cornette, WMC, to Dave Brown: "Lance Russell carried you on his back for 25 years. Now, you can't even see." 2. Cornette, WMC: "Lawler's called the only man (Jackie Fargo) on earth older than Eddie Marlin." 3. Sean Mooney, PTW, on Bro. LUV's healing service: "What a shameful display!"

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Lance/Garvin, WCW PRO, on Luger: (LR) "Can you believe the body on that guy?" (JG) "What kind of guys do you think we are? We're not that way." 2. Cornette, WMC, on Fargo profile: "Did that bring a tear to a glass eye?" 3. Ross/Missy Hyatt, WME: (MH) "Terry Taylor? What could he offer a beautiful woman like myself?" (JR) "What do I look like, Chuck Woolery?"

CHAVUNIST AWARDS - 1. Ross/Rhodes, CLASH XIV, on Paul E.'s loss to Missy in arm-wrestling: (JR) "Paul E. didn't have his mind on what he was doing. He had his mind on a couple of other things." (DR) "Yeah, Jimbo, he was thinking about two of them." 2. Garvin, WCW PRO, answering Lance Russell's question: "What do you think of this high-tech computer stuff?" (JG) "I think her skirt's too long."

POT CALLING THE KETTLE - Uptown Bruno, WMC: "These fans don't wash. Their hair is greasy. The men need to be deliced."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE KING OF CELLULOID (Roddy Piper on Bro. LUV). 2. MR. CONGENIAL (Garvin on Vicious). 3. SMILEY (Lance on Vicious).

BEST PICTURES - 1. NBC, Slaughter over-top bump. 2. NBC, Slaughter posted by Duggan. 3. WCW, Flair looking up to El Gigante. 4. USWA, Terry Funk shoving Craig Johnson. 5. USWA, Funk going after fans. 6. USWA, Funk kicking at cameraman. 7. WWW, Arn's foot on ropes during pin of Zenk.

BEST PERFORMANCES - Cornette/Fabs, WMC, arguing about treatment of Jackie Fargo. Tremendous stuff.

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - WMC, for clipping audio on Michael St. John profile of Jackie Fargo.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Ric Flair, WCW: "...the bigger they are, the harder they fall....the bottom line is." 2. Rhodes, CLASH XIV: "In pul-lic, if you wee-yull!"

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Pedicino, USWA, on Lawler piledriver: "If we had been in Tennessee, that would have been a disqualification but since we're in TENNESSEE, it's legal." (Must have been the end of a long night, J.P.). 2. Piper, WWP-SU: "The king of CELLULOID." (Isn't it cellulite?). 3. Steve Beverly, guest host, MIDDAY, WBBJ-TV, for calling interview guest Joe Pelligrino "Mr. PEDICINO."

BOO AWARDS - 1. WCW, for the blatant sexism in the Missy Hyatt portion of the arm-wrestling contest on the CLASH. A column on this one next week. 2. WWP, for blatant commercializing Hulk Hogan's military visits on THE MAIN EVENT. 3. WCW, for constant repetition of WRESTLE WAR promos.

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SPOTLIGHT ON SPOTLIGHT: The Slaughter scenario became fodder for the first hour of John Arezzi's PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT on WBAB in New York Sunday. Dave Meltzer and I guested with Lanny Poffo representing a pro-WWF view.

FROM DAVE: "Using the war as a backdrop to set the stage to make money on WRESTLEMANIA---play-acting the war to sell professional wrestling tickets is just crossing the line."

FROM POFPO: "I do believe that---in a word---the reason we are in the Persian Gulf is we are fighting for freedom. Those who would criticize the World Wrestling Federation for simply reflecting that reason are born not out of patriotism but out of jealousy."

FROM ME: I like Lanny but I had to take issue with his charge that the news media is "exploiting the war to make money, more than any business." This was one in which Lanny didn't do his homework. I replied, "Lanny, that's a view some people have but I can tell you from my own station's perspective, we have LOST at least \$25,000 in ad revenues from local and national advertisers who do not want their spots to run anywhere close to war coverage. Every time a network special report bumps a local or network show, it costs that network and affiliate commercial fees from spot which do not run." Lanny needs to read how the Big 3 nets and CNN are running about \$1 million over budget every week on coverage of the war.

CAPITOL WEEKEND: WCW drew about 7,000 at the Baltimore Arena Friday night for a Sting/Luger win over Flair/Vicious in the main event. WWF had a Slaughter-Warrior cage match Sunday night in Landover in which Sherri Martel ran in and Warrior slammed her and stripped her to her undies (the same finish they're doing around the horn).

TOO BAD NO TV: In the Nasty Boys' win over the Bushwhackers Sunday night, the crowd began yelling, "STEINERS! STEINERS! STEINERS!"

WCW ON THE WAR: There was no doubt in my mind of the sincerity of Ranger Ross in his words to the troops on the CLASH. It was brief, honest and tasteful. I wish I could say the same about Dusty's abrasive remarks. I'm sorry but they appeared to be just another effort to get himself over.

THE INSIDE REPORT: In case you are wondering, at least one TBS executive wants Dusty off the air after Wednesday night's performance.

THE NEW PTW: The new format for PRIME TIME WRESTLING will be a cross between PTW and the old TNT show. No song-and-dance acts or comedy sketches but live audience reactions to the hosts. It may inject a little life into the stale setup.

HERB'S WAY: Here's the latest on the UWF in New York. The next taping at the Pinta Hotel has been moved from Saturday night to a week from Friday. But checks are bouncing and we've been told Herb Abrams is scrambling to make them good.

IN COURT: Abrams has also been served with legal papers by Titan Sports to block his use of Honky Tonk Man on any of

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the UWF TV shows. So Herb has had to edit out the sequences. A source who has worked for the UWF has told MATWATCH checks bounced for both Honky and Killer Kowalski in the last week.

JOHN SAYS GOODBYE: John Arezzi is no longer handling promotion for Abrams and is not commenting about the situation. But MATWATCH has learned Arezzi experienced some of the same woes in doing front work for the UWF as did a few of our West Coast sources who worked UWF shows in Reseda. Abrams is said to be constantly livid at these reports in newsletters. But we've been told Arezzi simply had his fill

A LONG MATTER: We haven't yet discussed this with WCW brass and they may not talk to us about it. But we have confirmed Teddy Long is under a 30-day suspension. Sources tell us Teddy tested positive for codene when drug tests were administered. Two sources have told us Long had been taking codene for a shoulder problem but failed to list it on a sheet at the time of the test.

A THIRD AIRING: For those who miss WRESTLE WAR's two airings on the 24th, a repeat showing airs at 5 p.m. on the 28th on VIEWER'S CHOICE.

WE GOOFED: Henry Raines should be pleased so much interest came our way for his SUNCOAST PRO shows. Florida correspondent Shannon Rose called results from the latest SUNCOAST tapings. Two other fans went further. They reported results for the TV shows and gave us BOMB-PLUS ratings. Only one problem: the shows haven't aired yet, so the ratings and order of matches we had in TV TEMPO are invalid. Our apologies. We're promised us a tape of the shows.

NEXT TAPING: For Manatee FL-area fans, the next SUNCOAST taping will be March 2 at Manatee Civic Center.

THE GUN JUMPS: Channel 50 in the Baltimore-Washington area carries WWF SPOTLIGHT Fridays at 6. Guess what? Last Friday night's show had the clips of the Slaughter-Duggan match and Hogan leading the Pledge (edited in from Monday's taping) two hours BEFORE NBC aired THE MAIN EVENT.

CRASH BUMPS TME: The national rating for the NBC spec will be affected adversely because of its pre-emption in the L.A. market. The crash of a U.S. Air plane with a commuter flight at L.A. International sent KNBC into live coverage during the hour of THE MAIN EVENT.

IT'S ODD, BUT: If you watch USWA LEGENDS on ESPN and wonder why many of the ring entrances and announcer calls during them are covered by a taped music bed: there's a reason. ESPN does not have the same music licensing contract as most local TV stations and cannot air copyrighted ring music the cable sports network has not cleared.

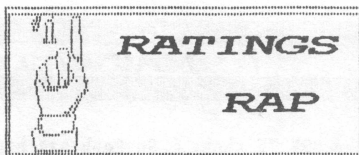
MATWATCH 25 SCALE (CLASH XIV)

CROWD ENTHUSIASM	3.0
QUALITY OF ANNOUNCING	2.8
QUALITY OF MATCHES	2.4
TOTAL PRODUCTION	3.6
OVERALL EXCELLENCE OF SHOW	2.5

MATWATCH

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ALL-AM HITS BIG NUMBER



Despite its weak numbers (see page 1), CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XIV topped the weekly Nielsen cable race but, free from the heavy load of NFL competition, ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING on USA benefited from the viewer tune-in on Super Bowl Sunday to score its best ratings since last WRESTLEMANIA.

ALL-AM jumped 35% from its previous week's outing to post a 3.1 rating and 7 per cent share to top the weekly series. On the other hand, WWF PRIME TIME, which scored a strong 3.0 Jan. 21, fell 23% to a 2.3 and perilously low 3.3% share against the AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS on ABC.

TBS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING jumped 9% from the low 2.2 for its Jan. 21 Sunday edition to finish at 2.4, still well down from the 3.4 of the same week last year. The WCW POWER HOUR continued with its average of a 1.5.

CABLE

Week Ending Jan. 30	Rating	Share	Total Homes
CLASH XIV (TBS 1/30)	3.9	5.8	2.16 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 1/27)	3.1	7.0	1.69 million
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 1/26)	2.4	4.4	1.34 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 1/28)	2.3	3.3	1.29 million
WCW CLASH XIV REPLAY (TBS 1/30)	1.7	3.7	953,000
WCW POWER HOUR (USA 1/26)	1.5	5.1	896,000

MATWATCH ANNUAL & SUBSCRIPTIONS

ANNUAL

The 92-page 1990 MATWATCH ANNUAL: WHAT WENT WRONG is now off the press. Price: \$12 (U.S./CANADA), \$20 (OVERSEAS).

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3/25/91

Two Taped Specials

TITAN TO OFFER

BUDGET PPV SHOWS

NEW YORK----The World Wrestling Federation will add two lower-priced pay-per-view productions later this year, according to BROADCASTING magazine.

The new PPV shows would be priced in the \$4.95-5.95 range and will be pre-taped anthology clip shows, similar to many of the WWF highlight home videos. According to BROADCASTING, one of the first shows will be a history of WRESTLEMANIA.

Titan Sports will turn out two budget pay hours per year, which will run several times over a month-long period. The two would air in June and October.

A Titan spokesman told BROADCASTING the added programming will not dilute the impact of the WWF's four annual pay mega-events.

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 1)

As for NBC's THE MAIN EVENT last Friday, ratings were not available at deadline but, in our view, the show was a worse than predictable commercialization of the Persian Gulf War.

Not that Titan has ever been known for living up to its word but after WWF officials vowed they would not exploit Hulk Hogan's visits to military camps, what did we see but clip after clip of Hogan posing on installations and a continued route of war-is-money.

While the NBC special did not openly align Sgt. Slaughter with Saddam Hussein as it had on past syndicated shows or the ROYAL RUMBLE, the feature article in this month's WWF magazine is a moral abomination.

The issue, mailed to subscribers late last week, paints a picture of Saddam presenting a medal to Slaughter for his support of the Iraqi cause and is utterly shameless in its portrayal of Sarge as a sympathizer with a man who has committed thousands of executions of innocent citizens.

As you may have read on page 5, the Slaughter-Hogan issue was a topic on John Arezzi's PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT in New York Sunday. When Lanny Poffo suggested "the reason we are in the Persian Gulf is we are fighting for freedom and those that criticize the World Wrestling Federation are born not out of patriotism but out of jealousy," he missed the entire point. Vince McMahon is perfectly capable of making mega-profits from WRESTLEMANIA without a trip to the gutter. I don't know of anyone who could be jealous of good taste.

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